

REMARKS

Claim 19 has been amended and claim 25 has been canceled. As such, claims 6-12, 15, 17-21, 23, 24, 26, 27, and 30-35 are currently pending in the case. Further examination and reconsideration of the presently claimed application are respectfully requested.

Allowed Claims

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's allowance of claims 6-12, 15, 17, 18, 26, 27, and 30-35 and awaits formal allowance of the remaining claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 20 and 23-25 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant sincerely appreciates the Examiner's recognition of the patentable subject matter recited in these claims. To expedite prosecution, claim 25 has been canceled and its allowed limitations have been incorporated into claim 19, placing claim 19 in condition for allowance. Since claims 20, 23, and 24 are dependent upon base claim 19, claims 20, 23 and 24 are allowable over the cited art for at least the same reasons as that claim. Accordingly, removal of the objection to claims 20 and 23-25 is respectfully requested.

Section 103 Rejections

Claims 19 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0052124 to Raaijmakers et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,319,775 to Halliyal et al. further in view of U.S. Patent 6,511,876 to Buchanan et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/014500 to Foglietti et al. As noted above, the allowed limitations of canceled claim 25 have been incorporated into claim 19, placing claim 19 in condition for allowance. Since claim 21 is dependent upon base claim 19, claim 21 is allowable

over the cited art for at least the same reasons as that claim. Accordingly, removal of the § 103(a) rejection of claims 19 and 21 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

This response constitutes a complete response to the issues raised in the final Office Action mailed May 19, 2006. In view of the remarks herein, Applicants assert that pending claims 6-12, 15, 17-21, 23, 24, 26, 27, and 30-35 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, comments, or suggestions, the undersigned earnestly requests a telephone conference.

No fees are required for filing this amendment; however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Daffer McDaniel LLP Deposit Account No. 50-3268/5298-08000.

Respectfully submitted,
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